

Paul and Carrie Seelhammer **2023 ZEMA Annual Report**

Flexibility and diligence are words that describe 2023 for the Seelhammer family. We must be able to follow the path God leads us on and we must not give in when the tasks at hand appear too difficult to accomplish.

Paul continued to transition into the Field Director role. The Mergon Foundation invited him to participate in a one-year long program called “Healthy Leaders’ Journey”. It was a time to walk with 12 other leaders of African missionary and non-profit organizations with the focus on Romans Chapter 8 leadership principles. It assisted Paul as he journeyed through an exciting year of realizing his plethora of roles and responsibilities. He also is grateful for all the advice from many of the past ZEMA field directors! It’s also been challenging and fulfilling to understand the different ministries performed by the missionaries and the different needs of the missionary families more closely and intimately. Paul is blessed to be in this position and prays he will continue to serve well in this leadership role.



As expected, we continued working closely with the ZEMA Gauteng team which included Tim and Luann Kuehl, Kit Tischler, and Matthew Kuehl. The ministries between all the missionaries are growing and developing well. Change is coming for the Gauteng team as Tim and Luann Kuehl will be retiring and the Seelhammers will be moving to Sunbury, both at the end of 2024. We are praying for smooth transitions for the missionaries and the ZEBS teachers in Gauteng.

Unexpectedly, Paul has spent a lot of time assisting with the ongoing transition at Sunbury Christian Camp. As Field Director, much of Paul’s time and efforts have been guiding and supporting the ZEMA missionaries and also Sunbury. Paul made almost a dozen trips to Sunbury this year, filling gaps and helping to facilitate transitions where needed. Currently John and Janice Lewin are working hard to keep the camp going, but they are the only family permanently living there. Praise the Lord for the missionaries who took turns staying at Sunbury to help fill the gaps in 2023. Praise the Lord also for Howard and Lynn Swank, Geff and Katy Lee who each served for three months in 2023, and also for Chris and Ann Althouse, who will serve for three months in 2024. Each couple raised funds and spent many hours improving the camp facility and ministering there. The Seelhammer family plans to move to Sunbury in late 2024 with the hope of building up and supporting the Zion ministries that operate at the camp. Also, the Boatman family is continuing to raise support to begin their ministry at Sunbury in the near future. At the same time, there is still a great need for more people to come alongside the missionaries and staff at Sunbury.

Paul made two visits to the Vhembe District in 2023. Many opportunities for ministry exist there, but it would require a full-time missionary living closer to the area to successfully develop the ministry. The ZCC and UACC churches have shown interest in the ZEMA ministry, and the hope is for TWB and ZEBS to start in the future. Good relationships have been developed there and we are waiting for God to send the right person/s with a calling for that ministry.

The Trumpet of Zion ministry was on hold this year after the sudden death of the first-born son of Khuba and Thutelene Mpungose in January. It was a year of many challenges and mourning for not only the Mpungoses, but also the ZEMA family. Stephen Langley will be assuming the responsibilities for the media ministry in 2024.

Paul continued to work closely with Andy Sullivan in the ZEFA ministry. The Zion Bible Teacher's Conference was held in July with much fellowship and encouragement. The Annual Zion Conference was held in October. Pastor Afrika Mhlope was the main speaker and 120 people attended the conference at Sunbury.

A new ministry called the "AmaziYoni Media Group" has been informally formed with the hope to further develop ideas for providing training and materials to a wider range of Zionists in Southern Africa. We had more training for the New Life Box (Light Stream) for some ZEBS/ZBC teachers at the annual Zion Bible Teachers Conference.

Carrie has been working with Luann Kuehl in Sunday School Teacher Training, SSTT, and in writing Sunday school curriculum specifically for Zionists. Carrie and Luann taught a SSTT in Gauteng and also Carrie and Paul travelled to KZN to teach a SSTT there as well. The first Sunday school curriculum on the Ten Commandments was finished and has been very well received. The second edition of the Torch newsletter for Sunday school teachers was also printed in 2023. The next curriculum is being developed on the Parables of Jesus.

Please pray for:

- Pray for Paul as he continues in the second year of the five-year term as ZEMA Field Director
- Pray for Carrie as she ministers to the children and contributes to the Children of Zion ministry.
- Pray for the continued growth of Zion Evangelical Bible School and Zion Bible College in Southern Africa.
- Pray for the effective ministry of Zion Evangelical Fellowship of Africa to the Zion churches of Southern Africa.
- Pray for the Radio and Media ministry development and expansion along with the AmaZiyoni Media Group

In Christ Jesus, our Lord and Saviour,
Paul and Carrie Seelhammer